

BO TALES



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The Journal of the Original Hobo Nickel Society, Inc.

August 1998

Smooth Operators

By Stephen P. Alpert, LM #10



Not all hobo nickels were labor intensive to create. There was a method used by some original hobo nickel makers to simplify the task. This method has not been addressed in the hobo nickel literature before now. It is what I have named the "smoothen" technique. It was used by a prolific unknown hobo nickel maker whom I here nickname "Smoothie." The four hobo nickels illustrated here were made by "Smoothie." Other makers also used this shortcut method.

In the smoothen technique, the obverse of the buffalo nickel is partly erased: the hair, feathers, braid, neck, shoulder and date are all ground down to a nice smooth surface. The face, profile and Liberty are left alone. It is then an easy task to engrave the hat, ear, and collar with simple thin lines. The hair is usually punched in.

If the coin was not smoothened first, those same engraved lines forming the hat, ear, and collar would be hard to see. But they stand out clearly on the smoothened surfaces.

I consider the smoothen technique to be a shortcut that borders on cheating in creating a hobo nickel.

Rather than reworking the original features, here the artist first removes these features (hair, feathers, braid, date, etc.), possibly using a power tool, and then smoothenes the surface.

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Before he starts the engraving and punching, what he has is a buffalo nickel obverse with a smooth flat low relief outline of the head, neck, and shoulder (the face and profile remains unaltered and bold). Adding the grooves for the hat, ear, and collar is more like creating a love token than a hobo nickel, as nothing is being altered. (A love token is a coin with one or both sides totally ground smooth and flat, and then engraved with a monogram, scene, name, etc.). Due to the grinding down of much of the relief of the obverse, smoothen technique hobo nickels are more two-dimensional than most other hobo nickels.

Thus I conclude that the smoothen technique was used by hobo nickel makers with limited artistic talent, as a shortcut and easy way to make hobo nickels. Most smoothen technique hobo nickels should be just "Average" in quality rating.

In recent hobo nickel auctions and sales, smoothen technique hobo nickels, in my opinion, have been a bit overrated and overvalued, when you consider how they were made. Maybe this is because they are nice and clear designs (the original bothersome "noise" details of the hair, etc., have been erased away), but no great artistic talent went into their creation.

Carvings by the prolific unknown hobo nickel maker named "Smoothie" have the following features in common.

- 1) They are made using the smoothen technique.
- 2) The hat is created with long thin carved grooves.
- 3) The simple outline ear is made from a single carved groove, shaped somewhat like the letter C, or a backward 3.



- 4) The profile is unaltered, except for a small notch at the top of the nose in front of the eye.

- 5) There is a simple collar, usually with a triangular flap at the front. The shoulder area is not engraved.

- 6) The beard, mustache, and hair are punched in with a small curved punch. The short beard continues up in a thin band to form the sideburn.

- 7) The area behind the head is nice and smooth (part of the preparatory smoothing of the obverse).

- 8) There may be an errant scratch in the field behind the hat on some specimens; this could be a signature mark.

- 9) "Smoothie" varied his designs. Illustrated here are two standard designs, plus one with a rectangular hat, and one of the Kaiser.

- 10) For other illustrations of hobo nickels by "Smoothie" see:

- a) Virg Marshall's fixed price list that accompanied the May 1998 *Bo Tales*, numbers 13, 14, 15.

- b) OHNS Auction of Jan. 1996, lots 18, 51, and 72.

For illustrations of the smoothen technique by artists other than

"Smoothie" see:

- c) Hobo nickel DEF-001 in Feb. 1998 *Bo Tales* (also in Jan. 1996 OHNS auction as lot 68)

- d) OHNS Auction #6, 1998, lot 34.

(I have two nearly identical specimens in my collection by this artist, both with a hole at top also.)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Gail Baker "Bo-ette" Kraljevich
abibaker@erols.com

Please welcome the following new members:

Name	State	Number	Sponsor
Delmar "Totem" Wood	ID	RM #497	Ms. J. "Happy Hobo" Allen
Thomas "TC" Conroy	PA	RM #498	Dave "Willy" Wilson
Andy Hale	NY	RM #499	Ms. J. "Happy Hobo" Allen
Stephen Ferguson	CN	RM #500	Carmen Recce
John "Smiling John II" Slobodnik	IL	RM #501	John "Smiling John" Slobodnik
Dalton Gold & Silver	GA	RM #502	
Richard Hoover	NY	RM #503	Coin World
Dennis "Henry" Strong	WA	RM #504	Carolee "Cee Bo" Allen
Richard Barilla	OR	RM #505	Bill "Zemo" Fivaz
James Kasza	CA	RM #506	Coin World
Euan "Greenie" Green	NY	RM #507	Bill "Zemo" Fivaz
Frank Warrington	VA	RM #508	Gail "Bo-ette" Kraljevich
Joye "Teezer" Whitaker	CO	RM #509	"Geezer" & "Weezer"
Tonya "Hobo" Yetter	OR	RM #510	Gail "Bo-ette" Kraljevich
Craig Smith	WA	RM #511	Gail "Bo-ette" Kraljevich

If your address label says 1998 -

Dues must be paid before you can participate in the January 1999 OHNS auction at FUN.

Please pay your dues early- forms are in the back of the newsletter!

5 years @ \$40.00 3 years @ \$25.00 1 year @ \$10.00

Please take a few minutes to read the ***Bo Tales*** and Auction Catalogue submission information in the back of the newsletter. These dates are pretty firm and your cooperation is appreciated.

**Remember, articles for *Bo Tales* help to qualify you for a scholarship to the
ANA Summer Seminar!!!**

**Just ask Dave "Willy" Wilson and Mary Ann "MAM" Mellema
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS
(Room, Board & Tuition) to Colorado Springs for the
1999 ANA Summer Seminar!**

Here's the deal: each article submitted for ***Bo Tales*** earns two chances for a seminar scholarship. In addition, if the article is published, two additional chances are placed into the proverbial hat. That's four for one - excellent odds! Sign up a new member and you receive yet another chance for a vacation you won't soon forget! At least two member scholarships plus the original YN scholarships will be awarded each year - maybe more if we make lots of money with our auction this January. Sorry, Bill -- Board members are not eligible!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bill "Zemo" Fivaz

Boy, things are a-happening at OHNS!!!

This will be the shortest President's Message on record, as "Bo-ette" has covered everything I wanted to say in her excellent column outlining the minutes of our board meeting in Colorado Springs.

PLEASE READ BO-ETTE'S MEETING OF THE BOARD REPORT CAREFULLY!

We're all looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the OHNS table and meeting at FUN in January. I met with our guest speaker "**New York Greenie**" (see Gail's column) on July 28th, and I can assure you, you will enjoy his talk and the Q&A session afterward. "Greenie" rode the rails from coast to coast for over 25 years, and does he have some stories to tell! DON'T MISS IT...Saturday at 10 AM, Jan. 9th.

My super wife **Marilyn "Cookie" Fivaz** has offered to make some more Mulligan stew for the visitors to the OHNS table as she did last year. This was her idea from the git-go, and as those of you who partook last year know, it was delicious and went fast. Come hungry!!

Looking forward to seeing a record number of you hoboes in Orlando...all freights stop there, so you've got no excuse...we'll have the pot on, the table manned and a warm welcome for anyone who stops by.

Until then....."Zemo"

Original Hobo Nickel Society

Meeting of the Board

The **Original Hobo Nickel Society** held a meeting of the board during the ANA Summer Conference in Colorado Springs on the evening of Monday, July 13, 1998. President **Bill Fivaz** called the meeting to order at approximately 10 P.M. in the Werner Center of Colorado College. Present for the meeting were: **Bill Fivaz, J.T. Stanton, Chuck "Buddha" Irwin, Ray Flanigan and Gail Kraljevich. Dallas Shaw, James Taylor, and Don Farnsworth** each gave their proxy votes to President Bill Fivaz.

Authentication Payment Policy

Bill Fivaz announced the new authentication payment policy. Fees will continue to be paid to the club. **Don Farnsworth** (CLM # 31) and **Dave Wilson** (LM # 32) have been made Life Members in lieu of payment for their services. Gail Kraljevich and Bill Fivaz, already Charter Life Members, will authenticate pro-bono. Neither wanted their club start-up money returned, as both felt it was what got the club going and both are proud of that commitment. Expenses incurred by any of the authentica-

tors (postage, supplies, etc.) will continue to be reimbursed.

These decisions were made in response to a letter from Treasurer **Dallas Shaw** indicating an eventual problem with the IRS if our payment structure was not changed.

For the same reasons, the auction proceeds will now go directly to the auction facilitator (Bill Fivaz) who, after deducting expenses, consignment fees and his percentage for facilitation, will donate the balance to the club.

501(c)(7) Non-Profit (tax exempt) Status

A letter from Treasurer Dallas Shaw was read. The club will apply for 501(c)(7) non-profit (tax exempt) status. It was determined the club would not qualify for the tougher standards of a 510(c)(3) that would have allowed contributions to the club to be tax exempt. Dallas will handle the paperwork. The board voted to accept his proposal and pay the necessary application fees and CPA fees.

Name The Hobo Contest

The entries for the **Name The Hobo Contest** were read, discussed and voted on. The winning entry was submitted by **Steve Alpert**, LM #10 -

"Nicholas 'Nick' O'Honis."

Congratulations Steve, for your winning article! Since Steve is already a Life Member, it was agreed to offer Steve a choice of a Life Membership to be given to someone of his choosing, or to award him an original hobo nickel, to be purchased by OHNS from Bill Fivaz. (NOTE: Steve has selected the latter option) Bill will select an appropriate coin from his collection and will be paid accordingly.

Steve's entry was published in the May issue of Bo Tales. All of the entries were enjoyed and all have been or will be published in Bo Tales. Thanks to all who entered!

Summer Seminar Winners

Eligible member's contributions to Bo Tales and OHNS were tallied and names were placed in a hat. Congratulations to **Dave Wilson**, LM # 32, and **Mary Ann Mellema**, RM #181, the first recipients of a trip to Colorado Springs for the 1999 ANA Summer Seminar. Three more names were selected in case either Dave or Mary Ann cannot attend.

This will be a yearly drawing based on members contributions to Bo Tales and the club. The YN scholarships will continue as before.

Club Tokens

It was suggested that OHNS have a club token made by the **Gallery Mint (Ron Landis)** with the likeness and name of our new mascot. All agreed and Ron will be contacted and the details worked out. A sale price has not been determined. They will hopefully be available at FUN 1999.

Book

The subject of a book of the authentications to date was discussed. Gail will assemble, format and edit the information. The board agreed by a vote of 3 to 1 (with 1 abstention) to split the eventual profits from the book (after expenses) 50/50 with Gail. JT (**Stanton Printing**) will print the book.

Members who wish their coins to be included in the book should send them in for authentication. No publication date or price was decided.

Authentication Service

The authentication service was discussed in detail. The board voted to get written suggestions from the entire board and from all the authenticators on changes to the submission/authentication form. The board will discuss and vote on changes at FUN. *Comments are welcome!*

Annual OHNS Auction at FUN

The board voted to open the auction to any original or modern carved and/or punched coin (US or foreign) certified or authenticated by OHNS and hobo or hobo nickel related materials.

Items for the 1999 auction MUST be sent to Bill Fivaz, P.O. Box 888660, Dunwoody, Georgia 30356-0660 no later than Oct. 15, 98.

FUN Speaker

Bill has asked **Euan "Greenie" Greene**, a popular hobo from New York, to speak at the 1999 OHNS meeting at FUN ...Saturday, Jan. 9th. at 10 AM.

Euan Green's story is included in *Done and Been* by Gypsy Moon. The board voted to award Mr. Greene \$300 for speaking. Mr. Greene has also been made an honorary member of OHNS.

Smithsonian Article

Many of you have written and sent copies of an EXCELLENT article in the **August 1998** issue of the *Smithsonian Magazine* - "*Hallelujah, I'm a Bum*" by **James R. Chiles**. It was too close to publication to include in *Bo Tales*, but OHNS members may want to stroll down to their local library and take a look. The pictures alone are more than worth the trip! Also, it offers a great derivation of the word **hobo**: a corruption of *homo bonus*, Latin for good man. For a subscription to the *Smithsonian*, call 1.800.766.2149. They are also on the internet at: www.smithsonianmag.si.edu. Thanks to all who wrote!

Satirical Tokens - The European Answer to Hobo Nickels

Part I

by Bill "Zemo" Fivaz

Probably not many of us have stopped to think about it, but carved, redesigned effigies on coins were in vogue long before our beloved Hobo Nickels came on the scene in the early 'teens.

Many of the earliest pieces were carved on old coins of Great Britain, from the big, thick 1797 large pennies of the George III era through the coins around the beginning of WW II.



Coin # 1 Obverse

The exceptionally long reign of Queen Victoria (1838 - 1901) provided the host coin for the majority of these fascinating carvings, and the transformation of her effigy into other features are both humorous and very creative. Many, undoubtedly, were politically inspired.



Coin # 2 Obverse

Another popular area for "reconstructive surgery" on a subject may be found on coins of South Africa depicting

President Kruger. Almost all of these show the leader smoking a curved pipe and wearing a "top hat." They are found on all denominations from the large penny through the silver 2 ½ Shilling.

This two-part article will present about 20 different carved coins, some with obverse and reverse carvings, that are identified as "Satirical Tokens."

Most are from Great Britain, but some are also

illustrate carvings on the South African pieces as well as some on French, German and Spanish host coins.

I hope you enjoy the carvings in this article and the follow-up second part in the next Bo Tales.



Coin # 1 Reverse

Coin #1 - This host coin is a George III Half Penny.

Obverse: Here we see George wearing a tall hat, a high collar, and with leaves

on each side of the figure. On either side of the head is a "T" and an "E" in the field.

Reverse: The reverse of this coin depicts a seated Britannia, wearing a hat and holding a trumpet. There is also a scenic background with "1806" engraved at the bottom.



Coin # 2 Reverse

Coin # 2 - Another George III Half Penny.

Obverse: This one has George wearing a derby, smoking a pipe, and wearing a high-collared coat. "1806" is engraved at the bottom, in the coat.

Reverse: Here we see Britannia seated in her normal position, with "NEW YEAR" engraved on her left leg, "1871" on the rock, and a very stylized "F.W. King" overhead.

Coin #3 - This interesting engraving was done on one of the huge, thick Pennies of 1797. George III has been comically changed into "Georgette," a bespectacled woman wearing a bonnet.



Coin #4 - One of the Victoria pieces, this one on an 1885 Penny (high grade). Everything on this piece has been carved except the profile and the lettering. Note the detail in the lace collar - with bow - and the earring. Lovely hat, eh?



Coin #5 - Also from Victoria's reign.

Obverse: This one is showing Victoria wearing a Salvation Army uniform and bonnet (Note the "S" on the collar).

The Army was founded in 1865 by William Booth.

Reverse: Britannia is now relaxing in an ornate (carved) chair, ready to strum on a banjo.



Coin #6 - This 1816 George III silver Half Crown has a lovely XF+ reverse, and as you can see, Georgie's hair has been restyled on the obverse to resemble an English barrister. The field surrounding the figure has been expertly "stippled," creating a very interesting and pleasing effect.



Coin #7 - This is a superbly done South African 2 ½ Shilling. On it we see Krueger wearing a raised top hat and smoking a raised pipe! These two features were added to the coin to create the 3-D effect.



Coin #8 - You've probably seen something similar to this in your collecting search. It's a 1854 French 10 Centime piece depicting Napoleon III wearing a spiked helmet with a strap. Like many of this type, it has "SEDAN" engraved on the collar, a political snipe at Napoleon who, in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71, surrendered 80,000 men to the Germans at Sedan.



(cont on page 14)

Letters

For 20 years I was going to buy hobo nickels and never did. I lived in Chicago during the 30's, 40's & 50's. This week-end I was looking at *Coin World* & finally decided I would get hooked up with the nickels. Are they still fun to collect? Anything to help me buy a few good one's I would like. **James Kasza**

Thank you for your beautiful newsletter, Vol 7 No. 2 - It is excellent. A lot of my "Smiling Indians" were for people that were sick, as the Indian would smile for them when held under a light on a certain angle.

John "Smiling Indian" Slobodnik

In response to the request for information about the "ball bearing nickels," **Edward "HaHa" Dence** writes: **Harvey Rabkin** (now deceased) was a jeweler and made all sorts of oddities out of coins in all denominations. He never, as far as I know, made any hobo nickels. He made cut-out jewelry, magician coins and also coins that were cut-out to form jig-saw coins. I have a few of his coins, including the ball bearing buffalo nickels. He did not own his own business, but was a capable jewelry artist. He belonged to all the **Philadelphia Coin Clubs**.

Ray Flanigan writes: A while back I sent **J. Allen** a picture of a hobo nickel that had been classified as a "J. Allen," but didn't quite seem to match the pictures I had of her current work. As she states, even she has problems at times telling a "J. Allen" from a "J. Press." She also mentions that he (J. Press) forgot to sign his name - which disagrees with what she wrote in a recent article in *Bo Tales*. There are a number of "J. Allen's" without her name - or are they also "J. Press's"? **Ron Landis** has done some very original one-of-a-kind nickels - have either **J. Allen** or **J. Press**? Now that **Frank Brazzell** and **John Dorusa** have both passed on, and **Ron Landis** has stopped carving individual nickels, are **J. Allen** and **D. Romines** the last of the hobo nickel carvers?

Zachary Brannon writes: I just turned 18 so I needed to send more money. My grandmother likes to read the Newsletters and thinks these planned articles will be interesting to both of us. I've never had a special name. I'd like it to be "Skydive."

Dear "Skydive" -- *Thanks for writing - we're glad both you and your grandmother enjoy Bo Tales. Youth membership is \$5.00 a year for anyone UNDER AGE 19. Thus, I have renewed your membership for 2 years.* -- **Ed**.

Great organization & a great job on the FUN auction! -- **Tony Vigliotta**

I have enjoyed the hobby, *Bo Tales*, etc. and have acquired several fine specimens. However, I'm not renewing -- you've lost me through two trends: 1) Inflation. I can't keep up financially. Several years ago hobo nickels were fun because a guy like me could still afford the best, but no more. Current costs for significant items make no sense -- not for my budget nor for the over-all numismatic market. 2) The trend of interest toward modern craftsmanship rather than hobo originals. We're getting too cutsie. -- **W.A.**

I have enjoyed my membership in OHNS just about as much as I have enjoyed anything. I have watched as our society has grown and can't help feeling proud to belong to such a wonderful and unique group of people. I submitted an entry to the name the hobo contest. I had a lot of fun writing the tale and was surprised at how easy the words came. Almost as if I was a "Bo" someplace long ago. Keep up the great work! - **Fred Benson**
Thanks, Fred, for the kind words! - Ed.

Don Farnsworth writes: As the former *Bo Tales* editor, I know first hand the large amount of time and energy needed to produce each issue. Our current editor, Bo-ette, is doing a great job and I am sure that her efforts are greatly appreciated by the vast "silent majority" of OHNS, and certainly by me! The last issue of *Bo Tales* was a masterpiece! Keep up the good work!
Again, thanks for the kind words! - Ed

My Moniker "MAM"

by Mary Ann "MAM" Mellema

I had been teaching the eighth grade for 30+ years and everyone knows what a **jungle** that can be. One day, a new student from Texas appeared in my class which was located in a northwest suburb of Illinois. I had asked a question and Thomas responded with a "Yes, MAM." What joy I experienced that day and loved hearing Thomas respond with that remark. I even had it posted on my license plate reading, "Yes MAM." So that is why my moniker is meaningful to me!

Book Review

by Mary Ann Mellema

I Was Looking For A Street

by Charles Willeford

At present, I am reading a biography that I recommend for club readership. It's a book where one can truly get the feel about a real transient, a very young youth who relates his experiences living in the "jungle" during the Depression when he was age twelve and thirteen.

It is a biography by Charles Willeford entitled, *I Was Looking For A Street* published in 1988 by the Countryman Press, Woodatock, VT 05091. Here's an excerpt from the book.

"There's a definite distinction, an important one, between a bum (tramp) and a hobo (transient worker). A bum or tramp, is a professional; he is on the road by choice and is uninterested in employment of any kind. A hobo is a man who uses freight trains as a free means to get from one job to another, especially during harvest seasons. The hobo frequents the jungles and uses the trains just as bums do, and

he is not above begging when he is broke, but he is on the road primarily in search of employment."

Willeford did not consider himself in either category since he was only a youngster. He considered himself a "road kid." He relates his many experiences during the Depression.

In conclusion, if you wish to vicariously participate with a youngster who relates humorous and poignant incidents during the hard years, this book is for you. In it you will meet tramps, hoboes and road kids. Happy reading!!

Editor's Note: *Book dealer Charles Davis indicates this book is now out of print and bringing \$50.00 on the used book market. Perhaps the club should buy a copy for members to borrow. Let me know if there is any interest.*

NAME THE HOBO CONTEST

Member **Archie Taylor** donated a **great** original painting of a hobo to the club. The board decided this character should be our official "mascot," but he needed a name. We held a contest, open to all paid up members except the board, to name this rascal and provide a story behind his name. The winner would receive a Life Membership to OHNS. All entries were sent to **Bill Fivaz** and were reviewed and voted upon by the board at the ANA Summer Seminar in mid-July. And the winner is...

Nicholas "Nick" O'Honis

Submitted by LM # 10, Steve "The Big One" Alpert (printed in the May issue of *Bo Tales*)

Since Steve is already a Life Member of OHNS, he will be able to choose whether he would like to donate the membership to someone else or receive an original authenticated hobo nickel. More entries follow...

"Butts" Boghan

by Stuart Schneider

The only name that we knew him by was Butts Boghan. In later years I heard him referred to as Paul Boghan, but the name Butts seemed to fit him. He always had cigar butts or the remains of cigarettes tucked into his pockets, his collar or his hat. I rarely saw him smoke them, but they were always different from day to day - one day four cigars and three cigarettes, the next day twelve cigarettes and one cigar. Butts was somewhat of a dandy. His ratty jacket sported a well used handkerchief and in season he usually had a flower in his buttonhole.

He never let on much about his past other than to exaggerate his exploits with women. Nothing that would make you blush mind you, just stories of fabulously beautiful or wealthy women whom he'd met

on his travels. Now I knew him for 6 years and the only traveling that I saw him do was on a freight train or on the back of a truck. We travelers you know, can't stand to be cooped up in small places. If the walls don't drive you crazy, the smell will. Last I heard of Butts was from a fellow traveler by the name of Bo something. He related that Butts has sat for an hour while an artist drew his picture. After that introduction to fame, he became quite intolerable. He refused to do manual labor to make a few nickels to buy food. He lived off our good nature and occasional jobs. Talked about going to Paris, France. He heard that a group of artist types had taken up being "abstract" or some such word on the side of the big river there. Well, one day in 1737 he left and I never saw him again.

"Uncle Pete"

by Ms. J. Allen

Uncle Pete was an itinerant gentleman bachelor, fun loving, he loved his little bottles of booze. When he got a little tipsy - he used to give away \$20.00 bills to folks who had trouble making ends meet.

One person comes to mind, a lovely lady raising 2 little kids on her own, recently divorced and all alone. He gave her \$20 for food, never asking anything in return, nor expecting anything, because he felt sorry for her. One day she asked him his name and he said everyone calls me Uncle Pete!

Uncle Pete came from a poor family in the Netherlands Holland at the age of 17 years old he stowed away on a ship to the U.S.A. The ship went on the rocks in a hurricane, the survivors were picked up by the Merchant Marines.

On the ship at night the sailors sat around a table drinking brandy and telling stories, while playing cards. One fellow was carving a picture on a coin with a nail, another was whittling out birds from driftwood.

Since it was during the war, he decided to stay on

board the ship. They stopped at several different ports. At one of the stops, he met a fellow who taught him how to look for things to trade for cash. He also showed him all these beautiful carved, artistically fancy people on coins. He explained to Uncle Pete - how he could carve these and trade them for a meal and if he hung around the carriage houses, he might find some nickels or other coins on the ground, and in the carriages.

So he got a job at a farm, where he met a lot of hobo's passing thru. They weren't lazy; they offered to shoe the horses, wash windows, paint the picket fences. One fellow peeled apples and another milked cows.

The hobo's spoke of a huge hobo jungle in Fairence Point, Canada, where they gathered along the St. Lawrence River.

So being poor and living thru the Depression Years, Uncle Pete decided if he could help some one with found money and help make their day better - He did it!

ie: This was told to me by Uncle Pete.

"Frying Pan Jack"

by Jerry "Mr. Bob" Roberts

Frying Pan Jack was a "profish" or an experienced professional hobo who roamed the southeast because he didn't know how to restrain his free spirit. If this nomad did stop at a jungle, he could be heard talking about socialism and his political hero, Joe Hill.

"Frying Pan Jack" was a self-educated man who was widely read in industrial law, economics, and political philosophy. Hence, the reason for his moniker. He was a man who was willing to "jump into the political frying pan," especially around a large pot of Mulligan stew. He would often test the merits of other hobos' political thoughts and revolutionary theories.

"Frying Pan Jack" was a hobo who believed that labor was honorable, at least one to two days a week. He thought hobos were a social class up from idlers, tramps and bums. These vagabonds were trouble and they were to be despised.

The trouble with this thought was "Frying Pan Jack's" free spirit sometimes prevented him from working at all. This landed him in jail in Georgia in the summer of 1932. This is where he met a man named Bertram "Bert" Wiegand. It has been said that Jack was the one who gave Bert some pointers on the finer ways of carving a Buffalo nickel, but that is another story for another time.

Stop the presses!!! This just in!!

Seems there was a recent estate sale, at which a lot of paintings were sold. The artist's name was a mystery, since they were unsigned. However, the consignor of the artworks discovered an old marriage certificate on the back of a particularly nice painting of a hobo.

The marriage document showed that:

On February 14th, 1920, a Mister Suess legally wed a Sarah Geisel.

This creates more questions, than answers!
Why did they keep their marriage a secret?
Was his first name really Mister?
Where and why did he leave?
Did he know he had a son?

...sort of a bitter sweet affair, perhaps some other member would like to look into it further.
Hope you like this crazy story!

"Mr. Suess"

by Bill (y Ocean) Anderson

He was thought by some to be quite wealthy, but had taken to the rails by choice well before the Great Depression. Such an affable fellow he was, always quick to share all he had with those fortunate enough to meet him. Most called him "Happy" the hobo, because no one had ever seen him without his cheerful grin. They say he never shared his first name with anyone. To those who inquired point blankly, he would simply respond, "Suess ...Mr. Suess."

From the fragmented recollections of the few stories that remain about this "Happy" hobo, Mr. Suess, it would

seem he was a very friendly, outgoing and talented chap. Above all, he had a love for children. The most common memory of Mr. Suess is that whenever he saw a child, he would give them something he had carved. It could be a stick or a small chunk of sandstone, anything he could fashion into something else. Sometimes it would even be a nickel! Tho not a fortune in those days, it was enough to make some suspect him wealthy. And he always kept an ample supply of "art" in his pocket, for all the children he encountered.

One fellow remembers fishing with the Happy Mr. Suess on a small pond in the south. It was a sunny, windless afternoon and would have been a bit nippy, if not for the tall pine trees that surrounded and warmed the pond. On the other shore, less than a hundred yards away, sat a young boy with his father. Happy picked up an acorn and with incredible speed, turned it into a man's head with a hat on top! It was perfect and was carved with great detail, right down to the ribbon tied around the derby. All he used was an old nail he had picked up earlier! He no sooner finished, when he stood up, walked around the pond and handed it to the young lad. Later, when they were leaving, they waved and yelled thanks across the pond. Happy just smiled and waved back.

Almost everyone remembers the time Happy spent with the rich widow, Sarah Geisel. It seems Sarah's beloved husband Teddy, was killed in the First World War, shortly after the young couple married. Teddy left her with no children, but with substantial amounts of land in the Boston area. She sold off parcels of this property so she could entertain the children who loved to visit her on the large farm she slowly transformed into an amusement park of sorts. And Sarah loved art! Most of the large rooms in the old farm house were filled with her paintings and she turned the dinning room into a studio.

Sarah met Happy purely by chance. Three little girls were visiting one day, and showed Sarah the nickels the "nice man" had given them. The three nickels, so impressed Sarah, she asked the girls to take her to

where they had met Happy. Well, as fate would have it, the weather was turning ugly, so Sarah invited Happy up to the farm. She offered him the one bedroom not yet filled with paintings, but Happy choose the old barn instead. He stayed there through the winter, left the next spring, and that was the last anyone ever knew of him. Happy did all that Sarah asked of him and asked for nothing in return, true to his generous form. With just two exceptions....



Sarah begged Happy to try his hand at painting and except for the self portrait you have, he never would. He just whittled nickels (as he used to call it) for all the kids that came to visit Sarah's farm. Oh, most of the kids couldn't pronounce Suess, so they called him "Mr. Shoes"!!

And the only thing Mr. Shoes ever asked of Sarah, was a mirror, as he went to bed early one night. In the morning, Happy was gone, and leaning against his neatly made bed, was the painting you have acquired. On the table, was a hand full of what would come to be known as Hobo Nickels. Sarah kept them to show all the early American nomads who she now welcomed to sleep in the barn as they passed through.

And she encouraged each of them to try their hands at whittling nickels, a skill that would later prove helpful to them.

As summer passed that year, it was clear Sarah was with child. She became a loving mother to her only child, a son who must have felt as if he had a hundred brothers and sisters. It's rumored that her son went to one of the finest schools in the Boston area and went on to become a respected doctor. But he gave up a rewarding medical career to draw and write children's books.

So you may call your mascot whatever you like, but your painting is the only known image of a very nice fellow named Mr. Suess. Now if you ask his kin, who was the real founder of the only school for hobo nickels artists ... they'd probably say, "Mr. Happy Shoes"!! It's a tough choice!

"Snake Creek Tom"

by Carl "Wolfman" Wesolowski
dated this here day 14 June - 98

Yep, he had enough of being out west. After accidentally findin an old garret sniff bottle behind the ancient stove with some gold dust in it, things were turnin out to be a lot of hassle. He went to cash them in and was questioned to no end. Luckily, he was a good story teller and convinced everyone that a fellow hobo ("**Big Pike**") had given them to him for helpin him when he was down and out. He jes wanted to git out of the west & go back east of the Mississippi, where life was slower. He had resided in a small shack that was abandoned by the previous owner and suited him jes fine. He had made a hobo nickel ever once in a while, and done some odd jobs for people in the area. (Only when needs be, of course). He was sociable, and got a moniker of "**Snake Creek Tom**" because the last resident of the shack was next to the only creek in the area. He made friends with an old man named "**Cockeyed**

Jake." He made his own home brew and Tom would partake of it with Jake some evenings, whilst playing cards. Tom would say sometimes after the bottle went dry, "*wish I could git some good likker. I forgot if I remembered t'tell you what I forgot t'tell when I was too sober t'remember.*" and would have to drink more later to remember. Anyway, the time to go back east had arrived! After all the good-byes, etc., he rode the freights to Medora, Indiana, an old outlaw town. It's close to the banks of the east branch of the White River, in the hills of Indiana. He heard tell of a shack abandoned long ago by a family down on their luck farming. He got there and found it was comfy. No electric, of course, but a roof jis the same! He has some money left from the nuggets, so no work was needed for quite a spell! And everything was slow - jes like he wanted, and no damn mining & prospectors!

"Daisy Dan" H. Nichols

by J. Kimzie Cowart, RM #186
Daisy Dan's Old Friend

How surprised I was when I walked into the Annual Original Hobo Nickel Society meeting at FUN 98 and saw a painting of my old friend Dan H. Nichols. It has been several years since I last talked with him, but I'm getting ahead of myself.

Dan was a very prosperous businessman prior to the Depression. Among his businesses were a nursery and a florist shop, but like many entrepreneurs, the Depression left him nickelless (pun!). As with many prosperous souls, he lost his friends and business which affected his family life so he took to the rails to see the world (good old USA). However, he did not loose his love for flowers. He spent many, many hours peering over them and plucking the brightest and best daisies from alongside railroad's right-of-ways and open fields. Each day he added a new daisy to his lapel as shown in his portrait and gave extra ones to his fellow Hobos. Hence, the Hobo name "Daisy Dan."

Like most rail riders, he spent the summers up North and winters in California or Florida. And this reminds me of a story he told me about meeting a fellow Hobo in one of the Florida Hobo jungles. This was the place where they took buffalo nickels and changed their appearance into human profiles - mostly clowns or fellow hobos.

During one such winter he ran upon a Hobo named "Bo" who spent many hours trying to teach Daisy Dan the art of carving nickels. He said he tried carving a few, but never could get the hang of it. And just think, if he had learned this skill today we might be collecting Daisy Dan Hobo nickels instead of Bos and Berts.

I am thrilled that the Original Hobo Nickel Society has chosen a portrait of my old friend Dan H. Nichols as their official "mascot." I never knew what his middle initial stood for. Do you think the "H" might have stood for Hobo? Naugh.

Bart (Cheezit) Corcolan

by Fred "Fenwick" Benson, RM # 106

Bart (Cheezit) Corcolan was born in a suburb of Detroit around 1900. No one knows exactly when, not even Cheezit. He started showing up at various hobo jungles in the midwest shortly after the Depression. He was a tall man, well over six feet and his slim frame made him appear taller.

No one knew anything about Cheezit, other than where he was born. I hesitate to even render a guess as to his background. There were times he would talk your ear off about current world events. Other times he would just stare into our cookin fire almost as if he was seeing something in there the rest of us couldn't.

Cheezit was a good pal to have on the road. He had

eyes like a hawk and could spot railroad dicks sneaking up on a jungle from what seemed like a mile away. I'm sure his keen sight saved many a Bo from spending time in the pokey, getting thumped by a billy or possibly even a worse fate. He would always holler "Cheezit" when he spotted the law coming. I can't remember a single time we got slammed, when "Cheezit" was with us.

Sometimes at night now, just before I drift off to sleep, I can hear "Cheezits" voice warning the Bo's of danger. I never knew what became of "Cheezit" - he kind of just disappeared. One thing for sure though, I'll bet my last hot meal he's riding that smooth rail in the sky.

I'll never forget "Cheezit."

How About A Hobo Stamp??

Del Romines alerted Bill Fivaz to a flyer at his local post office asking for suggestions for future stamps:

*"A recent flyer from my local post office offered an opportunity for the public to present suggestions for future postage stamp subjects, and as President of the Original Hobo Nickel Society, I would like to respectfully suggest that a stamp commemorating the **American Hobo** be seriously considered.*

These "Knights of the Road" were an integral part of Americana, especially during the depression, and it would be a fitting tribute to thus honor them. Thank you for your consideration." Bill Fivaz

Anyone wishing to write and request a stamp to honor the American Hobo should write to:

ATTENTION: CTC TM
Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW Room 4474 E
Washington, DC 20260-2437

Satirical Tokens

(cont from page 7)



Coin #9

Coin #9 - Here we see Kaiser Wilhelm II, on a silver German 3 Marks piece, wearing a 3-dimensional top hat. This hat is also silver, and was **laid on** the coin, actually overlapping the rim at the top. A lovely and impressive piece.

Coin #10 - The final piece for this first article is on a silver 1853 10 Centimes coin from France. It shows the Emperor Napoleon with restyled hair and moustache, enjoying his cigar.



Coin #10

More Hobo Postcards

by Bill "Zemo" Fivaz

This is the second in a short series of articles on an interesting collecting area of hobo exnumia – the Hobo Postcard. Several were presented in the last Bo Tales, and in this issue we look at a few more. If you have an interest in such things, you would be well-advised to pick up these tough-to-find items when they are located, as they are a nice adjunct to the hobo nickels and often spruce up any display of the carvings.

As mentioned in the initial article, however, be sure that any card you consider purchasing has a **hobo** subject – there are many that portray a drunk or "sot" that are really not true hobo postcards. The first card in this article, however, is quite obviously one that falls into the "must have" category.



Card #1 – cards showing hoboes in an actual photograph such as this are very desirable. Here we see two "knights of the road," the one on the right very Irish, who have found a keg of whiskey and are getting ready to enjoy their good fortune. The title at the bottom of the card kinda says it all --

"HOBOS LUCK."

The card is unused and is probably from around the early 1900's.

The next four cards are also from the early 1900's and were obviously done by the same artist, probably 4 in a series of many.



Card #2 – This one depicts a forlorn, bearded hobo with a old top hat and a bindle stick, sitting on a rock with the caption: **"Gee! I wish I had some one to love me!"** Note that his right shoe is tied together with string and all his worldly possessions are undoubtedly in the kerchief tied to the end of his stick.



Card #3 – again, we see a bearded hobo with a bindle stick, this time wearing a "flipped lid" straw

"boater" hat. Two tin cans tied to a string are beside him, and the captain reads: **"I started my vacation back in '62 an' ain't finished yet!."** The reference to '62 seemingly would mean 1962, but postcards cost 4¢ to send by then and the stamp box on the reverse of this unused card reads: "Place stamp here/Domestic one cent/foreign two cents." Also, as you will see later, another card in this series has a postmark from 1912 on it.



Card #4 – our same hobo friend appears again on this unused card with the tin can trailing behind him, ready to use over a hobo jungle campfire. Again, his right shoe is tied together but now his pinkies are pokin' through both brogans. The caption at the bottom reads: **"They say time is money, well, I've got the time!"**

Card #5 – by now our friend has run afoul of a railroad dick or some other unsavory character, as we see a patch on his head. He seems to be happy, however, sitting on a rock and cooking a pork chop over the jungle fire. He must've come up with a "new" pair of shoes, as now it's the left one

that's tied and a little thin in front. Below reads: **"I bet you envy me, Eh?"** This card also has written on it above and below the caption: *"Yours truly, Dusty Roads"* and *"On the road from San Francisco to Los Angeles."*



Francisco to Los Angeles." On the back there is a green 1¢ (Ben Franklin) stamp and a postmark from San Francisco dated Oct. 12, 1912. The message reads: *"Hello Bud: Don't work too hard. How is everything going alright I suppose (sic). Did you hear from Bill since you went up. I'll bet not. I told him you was up there. I suppose you hear from Slim. I only seen him once since you went away. T.R. Reilly."* Upside down at the top of the card the sender has penned: *"If you like this story say so and I will send you another by the author. Don't throw it away."* Interestingly, the card is addressed to *"Mr. Bud Shipaugh, Nevada City, Nevada Co., Calif.,"*

the home town of one of our most supportive members.

Any Shipaugh's left in Nevada City, Harry?

Watch for more neat cards in the next issue of Bo Tales – if you find any, why not share them with the members? I must warn you, however, they're **not** easy to find!



AUCTION # 7 PREVIEW

K-047



Man with beard and domed hat

First Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Above Average

Comments:

This carved (hat & ear) and punched (beard & hair) portrait of a man with a full beard, mustache, peanut-shaped ear and derby hat is typical of the art-work by the prolific hobo nickel artist known as "Peanut Ear." Most of his carvings are on medium grade 1913 nickels, and have been found in very old collections leading this authenticator to believe he carved in the teens and/or 20's. This is the perfect hobo nickel "type coin."

Artist: Peanut Ear

Method: carved & punched

Date of Coin: 1913

Grade: VF

Mint mark: P

Second Authenticator: David Wilson

Quality: Above Average

Comments:

Punched hair and carved hat. Field has been dressed by "peening" where Indian's feathers were. Lapel accent is typical too of Peanut Ear. Natural toning, slight wear on carving.

K-048



Man with beard and domed hat

First Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Above Average

Comments:

This carved (profile, ear, hat & collar) and punched (beard, moustache & hair) coin has all of the features this authenticator looks for in an authentic original hobo nickel. The profile has been altered to create an ethnic look with a hooked nose, enlarged nostril, bushy eyebrow (squint lines) and slight frown. There is an oversized ear, simple collar, derby hat with carved hat band. It is on a 1913 "T-2" buffalo nickel, and the style of carving is characteristic of authentic early carvings.

Artist: unknown

Method: carved & punched

Date of Coin: 1913

Grade: VF

Mint mark: P

Second Authenticator: David Wilson

Quality: Above Average (high)

Comments:

Pushed ear with unusually deep ear opening. Punched hair, squint lines at corner of eye, eye dotted. Nice attention to details on hat band. Carving shows slight circulation.

K-052



Man with full beard and domed hat

First Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Average

Comments:

Beard, moustache and hair have been punched (or hammer and chiseled) in with small curved chisel. Ear carved and lines for hat, hatband, shirt and collar have been cut into the coin. The Indian's profile has not been altered. LIBERTY and date remain strong. Nice average example of an authentic original hobo nickel on an earlier coin.

Artist: unknown

Method: carved & punched

Date of Coin: 1916

Grade: XF

Mint mark: P

Second Authenticator: David Wilson

Quality: Above Average (low)

Comments:

Carved collar, jacket lines, hat and ear. Well punched beard with a few stray hits on the face. Field dressing and lack of 3 dimensionality on the hat take away.

AUCTION #7 PREVIEW

K-049



Portrait of an older balding
"Bo"

First Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Average

Comments:

This self portrait has the typical "Bo" ski nose. Subject has full beard, moustache and fringe hair. He is completely bald on top. Coin has been toned a shiny, iridescent light brown. Cuts into the coin for the hair, beard and ear appear to have been done with a power tool. LIBERTY and date partially visible. It is this authenticator's understanding that the carver known as "Bo" made these coins in the 60's and 70's for distribution to coin dealers and flea marketeers. A large quantity was purchased by author Del Romines directly from "Bo" and later sold to collector Bill Fivaz to finance a book on Hobo Nickels. This coin is pictured on page 95 of that book.

Probable Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Second Authenticator: David Wilson

Quality: Above Average (low)

Comments:

Plate coin page 95 of Hobo Nickels, 1982 by Del Romines. All carved. Sharp hairlines. Not too well finished on the bald portrait of his head.

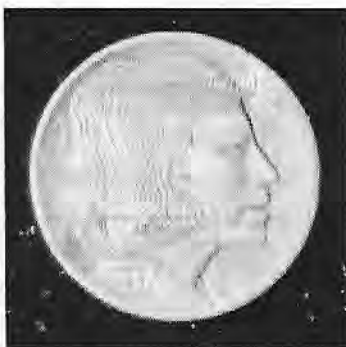
Method: carved

Date of coin: 1929

Mint mark: P

Grade: low grade

K-050



Portrait of woman known as
"Monique"

First Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Above Average

Comments:

This is a well executed portrait of the women known as "Monique" - New Orleans girlfriend to "Bo." Profile has been completely altered giving her a small, straight nose and mouth with lips. Subject has long, neatly styled wavy hair. Date and LIBERTY visible. It appears that Indians adornments may have been buffed off before hair was cut into coin with power graver. It is this authenticator's understanding that the hobo carver known as "Bo" made these coins for distribution to coin dealers and flea marketeers. A large quantity was purchased by Del Romines directly from "Bo" and later sold to Bill Fivaz. This coin is pictured on page 35 of Romines' first book.

Probable Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Second Authenticator: David Wilson

Quality: Superior

Comments:

See page 35 Hobo Nickels, 1982 by Del Romines. All carved. Very fine alterations of the Indian's face have completely altered it to a female image. Field dressing is virtually perfect. Shows a touch of wear - possibly carried as a pocket piece.

Method: carved

Date of coin: 1937

Mint mark: P

Grade: low grade

AUCTION # 7 PREVIEW

K-053



Man with beard and domed hat - gold plated

First Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Average

Comments:

This gold-plated nickel appears to have been smoothed down - removing the Indian's hair and feathers before the subject was drawn into the coin. There is no depth to the figure, no re-carving of metal. The picture is quite good with a lot of detail - especially to the shirt, tie and suit jacket - giving the appearance the subject has a very short neck. The man has a stubble beard, moustache and some hair. An ear has been added. The profile is unchanged. The entire coin is plated a gold color with nickel showing thru on the high spots. Quite different.

Artist: unknown

Method: combination

Date of Coin: no date

Grade: Fine

Mint mark: ?

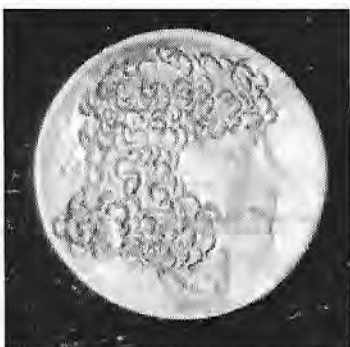
Second Authenticator: David Wilson

Quality: Average

Comments:

Entire left side of obverse was ground down making it only necessary to scribe lines to do most of the work. Jewelers engraving tool used for beard and lapel lines. Very little deep carving. Gold plating makes an interesting appearance.

K-057



Woman with curly hair.

First Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Average

Comments:

The obverse of this coin was heavily buffed before the profile was altered to that of a delicate female. Long curly hair was then punched in with a "C" shaped curved chisel. This subject has been nicknamed "Curly Sue" by Bill Fivaz. It is this authenticator's understanding that this coin is from a large group purchased by Del Romines in the early 80's directly from "Bo" and later sold to collector Bill Fivaz to raise funds to publish Romines first book on hobo nickels. This coin is pictured on page 99 of that book.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: punched

Date of Coin: 1928

Grade: low grade

Mint mark: P

Second Authenticator: David Wilson

Quality: Below Average

Comments:

See page 99 Hobo Nickels, 1982 by Del Romines. It looks like a young "Monique." Mostly punched with uneven sculpturing of the face. Typical ski nose. This was done after Bo's hand injury.

K-059



Man with curly hair and beard.

First Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Below Average (low)

Comments:

This coin has been entirely punched with a curved chisel to create a bushy haired, unkempt wild-looking man with a full beard. The coin has been treated either by heat or chemicals or both and is very dark. It was part of a large purchase made directly from "Bo" in the early 1980's by Del Romines and later sold to Bill Fivaz to finance Romines' first hobo nickel book. This coin is pictured on page 31 of that book.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: punched

Date of Coin: 1936

Grade: Fine

Mint mark: S

Second Authenticator: David Wilson

Quality: Crude

Comments:

See page 31 Hobo Nickels 1982 by Del Romines. With the use of a "C" punch and nothing else, the artist created a hairy wild man. Toning is the only thing that saves it.

AUCTION #7 PREVIEW

K-051



Character with beard and derby hat

First Authenticator: Gail Kraljevic

Quality: Above Average

Comments:

Points were added to the quality rating for this piece because it is so different! The subject is more of a caricature of a man with stubble beard and moustache and small round-rimmed derby hat than a portrait. A simple ear has been added. One line represents the collar. Hook has been added to the nose. Of particular interest to this authenticator is the shape of the neck and the small size of the head and hat. The rim on the derby is raised because the background was smoothed away and the remaining metal nicely carved and shaped. Neat piece!

Second Authenticator: David Wilson

Quality: Average

Comments:

Field dressing is a bit sloppy and too much of the Indian's head outline was removed leaving one with the impression our subject might have been lacking in I.Q. Punched beard, other details sometimes deeply carved.

Probable Artist: unknown **Method:** carved

Date of coin: 1920

Mint mark: P

Grade: Fine

K-054



Indian with hat and braid

First Authenticator: Gail Kraljevic

Quality: Average (low)

Comments:

This beardless Indian is sporting a derby hat with the rim raised from the background. (Field was smoothed away - leaving the metal which forms the rim.) Neatly combed hair has been added and braided at the neck. The profile is unchanged. The coin appears to have been chemically (or heat) treated and dark "stuff" added to the grooves. It is this authenticator's understanding that the carver known as "Bo" made these coins in the 60's and 70's for distribution to coin dealers and flea marketeers. A large quantity was purchased by author Del Romines directly from "Bo" and later sold to Bill Fivaz.

Second Authenticator: David Wilson

Quality: Above Average

Comments:

Seen on page 92 of Hobo Nickels, 1982 by Del Romines. Although not as much metal movement is involved, in this portrait, what is done is of fine quality. The toning is a bit harsh.

Probable Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes **Method:** carved

Date of coin: 1937

Mint mark: P

Grade: low grade

AUCTION #7 PREVIEW

K-055



Indian with Mohawk

First Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Below Average

Comments:

The Indian has been smoothed over (perhaps with a power buffer) leaving a hairless head. The profile is still strong and unchanged. An ear has been added and lines drawn from the top of the head around back to the neck to form a mohawk hair style. Darkly toned with tar-like material added (heat??). It is this authenticator's understanding that the carver known as "Bo" made these coins in the 60's and 70's for distribution to coin dealers and flea marketeers. A large quantity was purchased by author Del Romines directly from "Bo" in the early 80's.

Second Authenticator: David Wilson

Quality: Average

Comments:

See page 90, Hobo Nickels, 1982 by Del Romines. The ear is nicely formed but the unfinished dressing lines across the Indian's neck are distracting. Still - an unusual subject.

Probable Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: carved

Date of coin: 1935

Mint mark: D

Grade: low grade

K-056



Bearded man with derby hat

First Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Average

Comments:

This is a neat and simple carving by a well known carver. The nose has been altered to give it a hook and flat front. The ear is small and oddly shaped. The carving technique is different on the moustache (stubble) than on the long straight beard. The hair is a dozen slightly curved lines drawn from the hat to the face and collar. Very darkly toned with chemicals and/or heat. It is this authenticator's understanding that the carver known as "Bo" made these coins in the 60's and 70's for distribution to coin dealers and flea marketeers. This coin is pictured on page 29 of Romines first book on Hobo Nickels.

Second Authenticator: David Wilson

Quality: Average

Comments:

See page 29 and page 45 in Hobo Nickels, 1982 by Del Romines. The broadness of the engraved lines and their style does not say to me: "Bo did it!" A nice example from I believe an unknown artist mostly engraved and carved except for small punch marks above the mouth and under the nose.

Probable Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: carved &

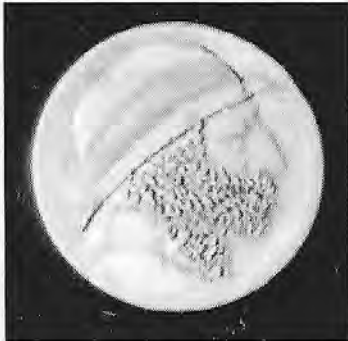
Date of coin: 1937

Mint mark: P

Grade: low grade

AUCTION # 7 PREVIEW

K-060



Bearded man with derby hat.

First Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Average

Comments:

This carved (hat with hatband) and punched (beard, moustache and hair) is very interesting. The technique used on the hair is unusual as many raised dots of metal are left. The hat is neatly decorated and has a wide rim. The profile is basically unchanged. One scratched line serves as a collar, otherwise the base is also unchanged. This is an attractive example of an average hobo nickel.

Second Authenticator: David Wilson

Quality: Average

Comments:

Field dressing is good, carved hat band with jewelers engraving tool. Beard of unusual texture, done with a tool that both gauges and raises metal. Nice average quality.

Artist: unknown **Method:** carved & punched

Date of Coin: no date **Grade:** low grade **Mint mark:** S

K-061



Cartoon character "Jiggs"

First Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Below Average (low)

Comments:

The obverse of this coin was completely removed before a cartoon character was quickly scratched on. The quick sketch does however show some talent. Bill Fivaz has identified the character as "Jiggs" from "Bringing Up Father," but the figure is foreign to this authenticator. This coin is quite unusual and therefore interesting.

Second Authenticator: David Wilson

Quality: Below Average

Comments:

Front side was completely ground down, and the design scratched in by a sharp pointed graver. Undoubtedly inspired by an original hobo nickel.

Artist: unknown **Method:** scratched

Date of Coin: no date **Grade:** low grade **Mint mark:** P

K-062



Girl with long hair and derby hat.

First Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Above Average

Comments:

This carved Indian head "hobo cent" is very unusual and rare. The Indian's hair is long and wavy. A beautifully carved derby hat has been added. The profile is unchanged. This authenticator remembers well the ANA Convention when eagle-eyed Bill Fivaz found this coin amongst many love tokens and purchased it (at a love token price) before I even got onto the bourse. Bill gloated the entire week!

Second Authenticator: David Wilson

Quality: Superior

Comments:

The coin when first viewed looks like an unlisted US pattern. The carving and sculpting leave scant evidence of what was originally there. A rarely used coin in the hobo inventory. Excellent work.

Artist: unknown **Method:** carved

Date of Coin: 1859 **Grade:** Fine **Mint mark:** ?

OHNS Publications Submission Deadlines

Submissions	Publication	February BoTales	May BoTales	August BoTales	Nov. BoTales & Auction Catalogue
Coins to be Photographed (send to Bill Fivaz)		January 1	April 1	July 1	September 20
Articles, Letters, Pictures, News Items, etc. send to Gail- PO Box 1409 Malvern PA 19355		January 15 (after FUN)	April 1	July 15	October 15
Ads (submit camera ready with check)		January 15	April 15	August 1	November 1
Authenticated Coins for Jan. FUN Auction					October 15
Target Publication Date		February 15	May 15	Aug 31	Thanksgiving

OHNS Advertisement Policy & Rates

1. Prices quoted are for camera ready display copy.
2. Graphic layout & design @ \$25.00 per hour is available.
3. Pictures or graphics are encouraged.
4. Payment in full must be submitted with ads. Make checks payable to Original Hobo Nickel Society.
5. All ads must be related to hobo nickels or associated materials or subject matter.
6. Dealers must adhere to our Code of Ethics.

Numismatic flyers can be inserted & mailed with Bo Tales for as little as \$150

	Annual - 4 Publications	Single Issue - BoTales	Single - Auction Catalogue
Full Page Ad	\$225.00	\$100.00	\$125.00
Full Page w/Cover	\$250.00	XX	XX
Half Page Ad	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$100.00
Quarter Page Ad	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$75.00
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